



District 12-4A teams
face league openers

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Collectors' curios range
from buffalo to albums

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Wednesday

Brazosport

The Facts

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Brazoria County's leading newspaper

Clute policemen disciplined in poker

By MONTY FOWLER
The Brazosport Facts

CLUTE — Three Clute Police Department officers have received official letters of reprimand after they violated department policies by providing security at a private poker party.

Police Chief Faye Markwardt said the officers, two supervisors and a patrol officer, were also told not to work the off-duty security job at a Clute apartment

complex anymore.

She declined to name the officers, saying she wanted to put the incident behind the department. Markwardt, formerly a lieutenant, was appointed police chief in June.

Informed of the officers' actions last month, Markwardt instituted an immediate internal investigation and said at the time they were doing the security job without her knowledge or approval.

Department regulations prohibit officers for tak-

ing off-duty jobs where gambling takes place, or from taking off-duty jobs without prior approval from Markwardt.

The private poker gathering is the same one that was robbed of \$25,000 in cash and jewelry last August by three masked gunmen wearing military-style clothes. The case was never solved.

Markwardt said on Aug. 23 that the officers had been providing the security service for at least several months.

Private poker is illegal if the host is a police officer, Markwardt said.

She was not with her officer.

A fourth officer submitted a letter of resignation in August and Markwardt's internal investigation was going into

Removal of PCB moving slowly, nearly complete

By S.K. BARDWELL
The Brazosport Facts

RICHWOOD — Removal of some 3,000 gallons of PCB-contaminated oil from a ditch along Highway 288 north of the city is a "very slow process," the president of Bath Electrical Systems said this morning.

The contaminated oil, released last week from the company's storage tanks, was apparently the work of vandals.

Tom Soderman said how much longer the cleanup operation takes depends on results of tests performed on soil samples sent to the Environmental Protection Agency.

"I think I can safely say we've got 99.9 percent of the contaminated soil out of there," he said.

POLYCHLORINATED biphenyls, used as a coolant in electrical equipment until discovered to be carcinogenic in the 1970s, made up about 2 percent of the oil that was stored in the company's tanks, an EPA spokesman said earlier.

The liquid was released into a deep drainage ditch along the highway in front of Bath and several other companies after vandals apparently entered the company's yard, which is fenced on three sides but open in the front.

Brazoria County Sheriff's Department investigator Buddy Tr-

ull said the vandals removed some hand-tightened brass covers, then turned levers opening the tank's valves.

BATH'S FIRST act on discovering the leak was to dam the ditch and contain the contaminated liquid, Soderman said. The EPA was contacted after cleanup operations began.

Vacuum trucks sucked the remaining liquid from the dammed ditch, then excavation began to remove all contaminated soil from the ditch.

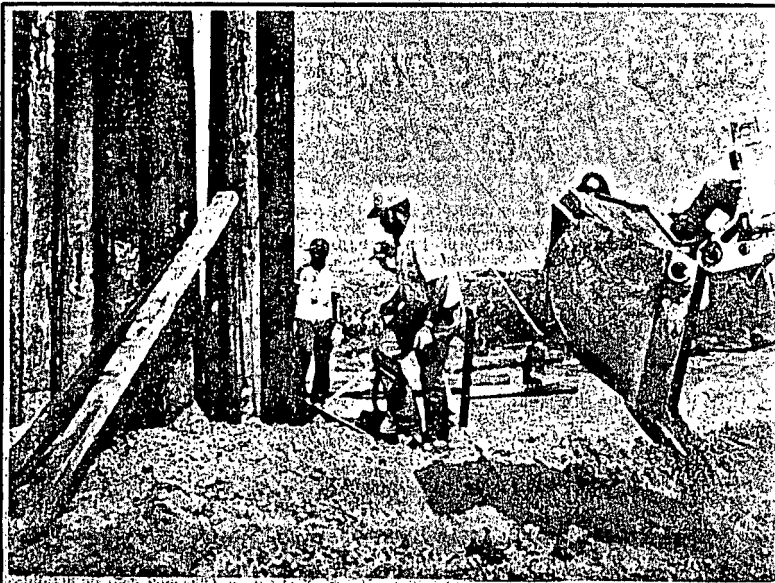
Slabs of the sludge-laden dirt are loaded on Rollins Environmental Services trucks, covered and taken to Rollins' Deer Park refinery where it is disposed of by burning, Soderman said.

THE DIGGING must continue until the remaining soil shows no trace of the contaminant.

Soderman said soil samples sent to the EPA Tuesday showed marginal traces of PCBs, "so we're going to take a little more dirt out today."

More samples will then be taken and sent to the federal agency for testing. The results will take from 24 to 36 hours to obtain, Soderman said.

When the last vestiges of the contaminant have been removed from the ditch, Soderman said more trucks will arrive with "clean dirt" to begin restoring the drainage ditch.



Beautifying Surfside

Workers pack dirt around pilings at the west corner of Highway 332 and County Road 267 in Surfside. The pilings are part of a plan to beautify the corner. A depiction of a crashing wave and rocks is also planned.

Richwood okays budget, tax rate

RICHWOOD — A 1985-86 budget of \$925,118 was adopted by the City Council on Tuesday after two public hearings.

The council adopted the budget with a 4-1 vote. Councilwoman Debbie Balshaw voted "against adoption," saying she "objects to

budgeting \$13,000 to hire a city administrator for a trial period in 1986."

The money would be better spent on other projects the city needs, she said.

The budget was adopted at a special meeting after two public

hearings on the budget and the council's proposed increase in water and sewer rates.

There was no discussion on either topic.

One city employee asked Mayor Tommy Jones to clarify the rate increase.



Future for Industrial le slowdown

By JEFF BROWN
The Brazosport Facts

The economic downturn in Brazoria County businesses and industries experienced a

Bath Elec. Sys
TXD 06810327